

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 02-12 -12

Issued at Cordova, Alaska
November 19, 2012,

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m.
December 7, 2012

Expiration Date: June 30, 2013
unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the State of Alaska resident and nonresident deer season for deer in Game Management Unit 6 at 11:59 p.m. on December 7, 2012.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.030(5), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Deer**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(5)		
...		
Unit 6		
RESIDENT HUNTERS		
5 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1	Aug. 1—Dec. 7 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
4 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1		Aug. 1—Dec. 7 (General hunt only)
...		

All other deer hunting regulations in Unit 6 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:



David W. Crowley
Cordova Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

This emergency order closes the deer season in Unit 6. Extraordinary snowfall during the 2011-12 winter resulted in estimated winter mortality in excess of 50% in eastern Prince William Sound (PWS) and 70% in western PWS. Heavy snowfall often occurs during December, which concentrates deer on and near beaches in PWS, where they are vulnerable to heavy harvest by boat-based hunters. During most years this is a temporary concentration as snow changes to rain and either melts off the accumulation or freezes the surface so that deer can again move freely away from beaches.

The Copper River - Prince William Sound Advisory Committee and the Department agreed that deer remaining from last year should be protected from over harvest. Because the federal subsistence season may take 1-2 weeks to close by emergency order, the AC requested that the Department close the season on December 7, rather than waiting for snow, which would allow time for the Forest Service to work through the federal process.

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